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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 88% Light rain Sensex 80,559 | Nifty 24,565 | Gold 99,040 | Silver 1,10,387 | Dollar 87.24 | Euro 100.84 | GBP 115.79

WRONG NUMBER

Telecom service provider calls out SIM Box fraud — scammers use specialised devices to bypass international gateway charges

PAGE 5

BULLY REPUBLIC

As navigating online world becomes tough with trolls lurking at every corner, we take a close look into the ugly face of e-harassment

PAGE 7

Sophisticated networks involving several foreign cartels continue to keep city addicted to synthetic drugs such as LSD, MDMA, Ecstasy; as of June this year, 247 narcotic cases busted

PSYCHEDELIC CITY

Consignments pushed into city in form of international parcels

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Bengaluru is facing a quiet but escalating drug problem, where synthetic substances like LSD, MDMA, and Ecstasy are fast replacing traditional narcotics. These drugs are not just targeting the city's college-going youth and tech crowd, but are also being pushed through organised, tech-savvy syndicates, many of which involve foreign nationals operating from within the city.

Police data reveals a worrying trend. As of June 30, 2025, a total of 247 cases have been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the city. Among the 372 people arrested, 17 are foreign nationals.

Officials say the involvement of foreigners has remained steady, especially in the supply and delivery chains of synthetic drugs, with MDMA and LSD dominating the seizures.

Unlike earlier street-level peddling, these substances are now traded over encrypted apps, darknet platforms, and delivered through courier networks.

Police officials say several foreign nationals, often overstaying on student or business visas, have been found renting apartments and using them as delivery bases.

"The nature of drug dealing itself has changed. It's no longer the street pusher. Everything happens over social media or encrypted chats — Police officer

Consignments of MDMA, LSD strips, Ecstasy tablets, and hash-ish oil are being pushed into the city under the guise of international parcels or through private courier services.

International involvement

In 2024 alone, Bengaluru police booked 520 NDPS-related cases, arresting 742 individuals, of which 61 were foreign nationals. That year saw 35.7 kg of MDMA seized, along with over 3,700 LSD strips, 15,000 Ecstasy tablets, and nearly 7 kg of other synthetic drugs including amphetamine and cocaine.

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Do the squat

Govt agencies have eaten into 285 of 472 acres of encroached lake area; BBMP has managed to free just 3.6% of such land

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In a stunning revelation that exposes a case of fence eating the crop, 285 out of 472 acres of encroached lake land in Bengaluru are occupied by government institutions, making them the single largest encroachers. Despite a 2013 Supreme Court directive ordering the state to protect lakes and stormwater drains, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has managed to reclaim just 17.38 acres — a mere 3.6% of the encroached area — indicating a dismal implementation of the court's order.

BBMP's lake division, responsible for reclaiming and restoring encroached lake lands under Bengaluru's development projects, is now facing resistance from none other than state-run agencies.

The civic body, in coordination with the Revenue and Police Departments, has conducted surveys on 130 of the 153 lakes under its jurisdiction. So far, encroachments have been cleared from only 29 lakes, and surveys of another 33 — mainly in Bengaluru South and Anekal taluks — are yet to begin due to delays by the Assistant Director of Land Records (ADLR).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Cultural celebration

The Indian Artisans' Haat, jointly organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, is bringing handlooms, textiles, jewellery, and decorative items from across India, presenting diverse cultural and artisanal heritage under one roof.
Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road; When: Until August 10

02 Light up

Shades of Green is presenting 'Songs of Nature', a special curation of lighting designs by Oorjaa, a conscious design studio renowned for transforming natural waste into luminous works of art. The immersive showcase highlights iconic pieces alongside a new collection inspired by the quiet intelligence of the natural world. **Where: Sabha, Kamaraj Road; When: August 8 to 13, 11 am to 7 pm**

03 Let the music play

Kumar Sanu, known for his countless iconic hit songs, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his timeless, soulful music. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: August 9, 6 pm**

04 Artistic expression

Sublime Galleria is presenting 'Charcoal in Stillness and Motion', an art exhibition featuring exquisite works by artist Gautam Bansal. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: Open from August 8**

Task force set to take drug menace head-on

Creation of Anti-Narcotics Task Force will help crack down more effectively on drug trafficking and hidden narcotics networks operating across Karnataka, say officials

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In a focused move to combat Karnataka's rising drug problem, the state government has approved the creation of a dedicated Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), a specialised policing unit tasked exclusively with tackling narcotics-related crimes.

The ANTF will function independently of existing police structures and will operate under the overall supervision of the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP), with operational control assigned to the Additional Director General of Police, ANTF. To operationalise the unit, the government has approved the transfer of 56 posts from the Anti-Naxal Force (ANF). These include police inspectors, sub-inspectors, head constables, and constables. The restructuring leaves 320 personnel with the ANF.

In addition, 10 new executive and administrative posts have been sanctioned, including senior officers at the DCP/ACP level, an Additional Superintendent of Police, and clerical support staff such as stenographers and assistants. The estimated annual recurring expenditure for these changes is Rs 2.77 crore, cleared by the Finance Department.

The ANTF will also engage outsourced professionals, including forensic/legal experts, forensic accountants, and data analysts, to strengthen case investigation and prosecution.

Redesignated stations to handle IT Act cases

This development follows earlier structural reforms where the government redesignated 43 CEN (Cyber, Economic, and Narcotics) Police Stations as Cyber Crime Police Stations.

Under the new notification, these stations will now handle only cybercrime cases registered under the Information Technology Act, 2000, and relevant IPC/BNS provisions. They have been relieved of authority to register cases under 10 key laws, including the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Karnataka Excise Act, Lotteries Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and IPC sections relating to financial fraud, organised crime, human trafficking, and acid attacks.

Although no longer empowered to directly enforce narcotics and economic offences, CEN units across districts and city police limits will now serve as Narcotics Control Enforcement Divisions, providing legal assistance and coordinating with public prosecutors on related cases.

Enhanced coordination and targeted policing

The creation of the ANTF is expected to improve the investigation of narcotics cases, make case handling faster, and boost coordination between departments. The move comes shortly after a major drug manufacturing unit was busted in Mysuru, where police seized nearly 188 kg of mephedrone worth over Rs 380 crore. The case revealed how drug production was quietly happening within the state and raised serious concerns about enforcement gaps. Officials say the new task force will help crack down more effectively on drug trafficking and hidden narcotics networks operating across Karnataka.

870 milk samples collected statewide for quality check

In a joint statewide initiative on August 1 and 2, the Department of Food Safety and Drug Administration, along with the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), conducted a special drive to collect milk samples from both government and private sources to ensure food safety. A total of 870 samples were gathered and sent to the Food Safety Laboratory and KMF labs for quality analysis. According to officials, Hassan district recorded the highest number of samples at 71, while no samples were collected from Uttara Kannada. Within Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, 54 samples are under testing. The initiative aimed to assess the purity and safety standards of milk distributed across Karnataka. **— BMB**

KCET final seat allotment announced

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Saturday released the final seat allotment results for medical, engineering, and other professional courses under Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET). KEA has announced separate admission schedules for each course stream, and candidates must follow the respective timelines to secure their college seats, informed KEA Executive Director H Prasanna.

The choice entry process for engineering courses began on Saturday, with candidates selecting Choice-1 allowed to pay fees and download their seat allotment letter by August 8 and report to colleges by August 9. For courses such as agriculture, veterinary, B Pharm, and Pharm-D, the choice entry starts from August 4, and candidates must complete fee payment by August 8 and report by August 9. Yoga & Naturopathy, BPT, BPO, Allied Health Sciences, and Architecture courses open for choice entry on August 5, with fee payment due by August 11 and reporting by August 12. B Sc Nursing seat allotment candidates can make their choices from August 6 and must report by August 12. For medical, dental, and homeopathy courses, admissions begin post the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) allotment results on August 6. KEA has directed all colleges to treat Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays as working days during this critical admission window. **— BMB**

SASO's musical storytelling resonates in Bengaluru

On Saturday evening, the city enjoyed a moving musical event as the South Asian Symphony Orchestra (SASO) presented 'Peace Notes: An Evening at the Opera' at Christ College Auditorium. The show combined music, drama, emotion, and a message of unity, marking Bengaluru's first experience of a grand western-style opera.

Led by acclaimed India-born Danish conductor Maria Badstue, the orchestra performed timeless arias from three of the most beloved operas in classical repertoire Georges Bizet's Carmen (1875), Giuseppe Verdi's La Traviata (1853), and Charles Gounod's Roméo et Juliette (1867). The dramatic storytelling and emotional depth of each piece transported the audience into tales of love, passion, betrayal, and redemption. Apart from this, they also performed an excerpt from The Legend of the Goddess.

Soprano Cheryl Bains and Indian-American tenor Alok Kumar delivered powerful vocal performances, breathing life into iconic characters like Violetta, Carmen, and Romeo. Their commanding stage presence and vocal finesse captivated a diverse audience, many of whom were experiencing live opera for the first time. The evening was more than a musical spectacle. The concert was a cultural dialogue promoting peace and understanding. The orchestra, founded by former Indian Foreign Secretary and diplomat Nirupama Menon Rao, unites musicians from across South Asia to celebrate harmony through music.

Rao, who also serves as trustee of the foundation, said in her opening remarks, "There is something profoundly symbolic about an orchestra. It reminds us that true greatness lies not in volume, but in harmony, in listening, adapting, and playing our part with care and respect."

The performance, blending artistry with diplomacy, drew an enthusiastic response and a standing ovation from the audience. "Bangalore is very close to my heart and one of my first music teachers is from Bangalore.....this city has given me a lot of training and i am singing here almost after 10 years," said Soprano Cheryl Bains.

Maria Badstue, acclaimed as one of the best young Danish conductors in her generation, said that it was her first time performing in Bengaluru. "The audience was incredibly polite, warm, and wonderful. It's truly a pleasure to be here, and we're definitely looking forward to more opportunities in the city," she said. **— BMB**

A Grassroots Crusader for Social Equity

Chandrashekhar's Commitment to Delivering Government Aid Where It's Needed Most

In a world where welfare schemes often get lost in bureaucracy and beneficiaries are left unheard, M. Chandrashekar—President of the BJP OBC Morcha, Basavanagudi Constituency—has emerged as a tireless grassroots worker ensuring that government support doesn't just exist on paper but reaches the hands that need it most. While many speak about change, Chandrashekar, fondly known as 'Chandranna', lives it daily through action, accessibility, and an unwavering belief that no deserving individual should be left behind.

A resident of Srinagar in Hanumanthanagar Ward, Chandrashekar balances his livelihood—running a flour mill and a water service center—with a strong sense of social responsibility, regularly setting aside a portion of his income for community service. His commitment to helping others began in childhood and has since evolved into a lifelong mission rooted in empathy, not optics.

Whether it's guiding the elderly and differently abled to avail their rightful benefits or empowering women and economically weaker families, his consistent outreach reflects his principle: service above self. "Politics doesn't give me as much happiness as serving people does," he says—a belief that defines both his leadership and lifestyle.

Under various BBMP welfare programs, Chandrashekar has become a reliable force for Scheduled Castes, Tribes, OBCs, and minorities. Over the past five to six years, he has helped over 50 persons with disabilities receive tricycles and facilitated tailoring machines for more than 250 women, promoting dignity through livelihood.

In Hanumanthanagara ward a major welfare drive at Eshanya Ganapathi Temple premises, where under the guidance of MLA L A Ravi Subramanya, a Bangalore One camp helped 4,700 citizens receive Ayushman Bharat health cards. His efforts peaked during a major welfare drive when 100 underprivileged students received laptops and school/college fees were reimbursed to over 500 students—ensuring that financial hardship didn't hinder education.

He has also distributed tool kits to members of the Barber, Carpenter, and Electrician communities and worked toward rehabilitation of those battling alcohol addiction by connecting them with de-addiction programs.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, when uncertainty loomed large, Chandrashekar and his team stepped in decisively. In the first wave, they distributed over 38,000 ration kits, followed by 28,000 more in the second wave—executed under the leadership of MLA Ravi Subramanya and MP Tejasvi Surya—ensuring vulnerable families didn't go hungry.

Chandrashekar may not chase headlines or accolades, but in every ward, in every corner of his constituency, his presence is felt. By quietly connecting policies to people and resources to those in need, he continues to prove that the heart of governance beats strongest in the hands of those who serve with sincerity and silence.

M. Chandrashekar being felicitated by VK Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli

> **Money isn't the most important thing for social service—it's the intent that matters. There's a unique joy in helping those around us. Politics is just a way to do even more good."**
>
> **– M. Chandrashekar,**
> **President, BJP OBC Morcha, Basavanagudi Constituency, Proprietor, Sri Bandi Mahakali Flour Mill & Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Water Service Center, Srinagar**

I find purpose in standing by those who seek my help

Hanumanthanagar's Pride

M. Chandrashekar is a well-known name across Hanumanthanagar Ward. His selfless service and determination to deliver government schemes to those who deserve them have earned him the affectionate title 'Chandranna'. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Vijaya Karnataka recently honored him with the Global Excellence & Honour Award at a prestigious event in Malaysia.

Empowering Women

Chandrashekar envisions a community where women become economically independent. To realize this dream, he founded women's self-help groups such as the Sri Gavigangadhreshwar Mahila Sangha in AK Colony and Sri Bandi Mahakali Mahila Sangha on Srinagar Pipeline Road.
From religious festivals to cultural and sporting events in Hanumanthanagar, his presence is constant. Despite his stature, he mingles with everyone like a humble volunteer—earning deep admiration from the public.

Mission Welfare

Chandrashekar ensures the benefits from various boards—Devaraj Urs Corporation, Adi Jambava Corporation, Ambedkar Corporation, Maharshi Valmiki Corporation, and Bhovi Corporation—reach the eligible. Through schemes like Savalambi Sarathi, he's enabled youth from backward communities to buy cars and luggage vehicles. Under PM Svanidhi, he supported street vendors. He's also helped unorganized workers get e-Shram cards, assisted poor families with BPL cards, facilitated medical reimbursements, and secured monthly pensions through the Manasvini scheme for single women, widows, the elderly, and differently abled.

Compassion Crusader

Chandrashekar is not just a people's man—he's a devoted animal and nature lover too. He regularly feeds stray animals and birds, ensures sick animals get veterinary care, and plants hundreds of trees with friends every year to protect the environment

Shared Mission

"I alone couldn't have achieved all this," says Chandrashekar with humility. "The support of Basavanagudi MLA L.A. Ravi Subramanya, Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya, and MLA's brother L.A. Chandrashekar, along with BBMP officials, various corporation board officers, and even representatives from other political parties, made it possible." A native of Hanumanthanagar, Chandrashekar completed his PUC at APS College. He entered public service through the Karnataka Congress Party founded by Bangarappa in 1993 and served as General Secretary of Basavanagudi. When the party dissolved, he joined the BJP in 1996 and continued his journey with dedication.

Pushcart scheme for vendors triggers concerns over rights, inclusion

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar recently took to social media to announce the distribution of over 3,700 pushcarts to street vendors, terming it "Dignity on Wheels" and a step towards grassroots empowerment. "This is just the beginning. Over 10,000+ citizens will benefit," he wrote on platform X.

While the initiative aims to restore livelihoods and promote self-reliance, several activists and street vendor organisations have voiced concerns. They argue that the move, though framed as empowerment, risks violating the rights of vendors guaranteed under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

"Street vendors need protection from rain and sun, not just mobile carts. These are being used to literally push vendors off the streets," said Vinay Sreenivasa, an activist working with street vendor unions. He questioned how elderly or disabled vendors could be expected to keep moving throughout the day.

Under the 2014 Act, civic bodies like BBMP are required to conduct vendor surveys every five years and establish vending, restricted, and no-vending zones through Town Vending Committees (TVCs) that include at least 40% vendor representation. Between September and December 2024, BBMP identified around 27,000 vendors, designating 7,000 vending sites across 243 zones. However, vendor organisations allege that thousands were left out of the survey and have not received official ID cards. In June, Shivakumar said only vendors with ID can operate in designated zones or use pushcarts — a directive critics say marginalises the unregistered and undermines the law's inclusive intent. **— BMB**

Peenya flyover cable work is 83% complete

NHAI introduces anti-carbonation paint as final phase nears; full reopening expected by October after major structural overhaul

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With over 83% of the cable replacement work completed, the Peenya flyover strengthening project along Tumakuru Road is in its final stretch. Out of 1,200 cables to be installed across 120 pillars, 1,000 have already been replaced, leaving just 200 to go. Officials expect the remaining work to wrap up by the first week of October, after which the flyover will be fully open to all vehicles, seven days a week.

In a first for the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), anti-carbonation paint is being used as part of the flyover strengthening process. This special coating helps protect steel structures from corrosion caused by weather, chemical reactions, dust accumulation, and cracks in the concrete. Officials say the move is expected to significantly enhance the lifespan and safety of the structure.

The 4.2-kilometre-long flyover, which stretches from Goraguntepalya Junction to the Parle-G factory, is a key arterial route on Tumakuru Road. It plays a critical role in connecting Bengaluru to over 20 districts across Karnataka, as well as providing access to neighbouring states like Goa, Maharashtra, and Telangana.

Phase two involves replacing 1,200 old cables with new ones across 120 pillars to reinforce the 4.2-km flyover.

"Strengthening works with additional cables and protective paint ensure the flyover is safe for all vehicles once fully reopened – NHAI official

The strengthening work was undertaken in two major phases. In the first phase, 240 new cables were added in empty slots two per pillar across 120 pillars to bolster the structure. In the second phase, the NHAI began replacing all 1,200 cables, with 10 cables per pillar. So far, 1,000 cables have been installed, and the remaining 200 are expected to be in place within the next 2.5 months.

The flyover was closed to all vehicular traffic on December 25, 2021, after a cable between pillars 102 and 103 near the 8th Mile Junction was found to be bent. A subsequent inspection by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) attributed the damage to stress from heavy vehicles. Based on their recommendations, NHAI carried out further testing before reopening the structure partially—allowing only light vehicles—while continuing the repair work.

Currently, heavy vehicles are barred from using the flyover between Wednesday 6 AM and Thursday 6 AM every week to allow concrete grouting after cable installation. Despite the ongoing work, officials from the NHAI have confirmed that the structure is now safe and stable. Once the final cables are in place, the flyover will be reopened to all traffic, with no restrictions.

Volunteers lead menstrual drive, promote sustainable choices

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A group of volunteers joined hands on Saturday to take up a sustainable menstruation drive to create awareness among underprivileged families at a slum near Jayanagar. The volunteers distributed menstrual cups and cloth pads among women and girls in the slum. They conducted a session for women of all age groups at the slum.

The initiative was organised by The Indian Ploggers Army, Helping Heroes, and a student volunteer from Reducate Cups. The volunteers said they were happy to contribute to a cause that aims to make menstrual health both sustainable and accessible. Tabassum, one of the volunteers, shared her experience, saying it was incredibly heartening to be part of the drive. "I had the opportunity to interact with around 50 women from different age groups. The session wasn't just about handing out products, it became a meaningful conversation," she said.

Women embrace eco-friendly menstrual products, showing readiness for positive health and environmental change

"We spoke about menstruation, pain management, and the five key signs of unhealthy periods, topics that are often brushed under the carpet. What stood out most to me was how involved and curious the women were. Despite coming from underprivileged backgrounds, they were open, attentive, and unafraid to ask questions. It was clear they truly wanted to understand and take charge of their menstrual health," she added.

Tabassum noted that many women expressed a genuine interest in switching to more sustainable menstrual products. "When we began distributing menstrual cups, reusable cloth pads, and biodegradable sanitary pads, a good number chose the cups and cloth pads. That really affirmed that the message had landed—they were not only listening, but also willing to take a step toward change. It felt like the beginning of something impactful," she said.

"The session wasn't just about products; it was a meaningful conversation about menstruation, pain management, and unhealthy periods – Tabassum, a volunteer

Preity, a student from Kumarans School who participated in the drive, said she was impressed by how comfortable the women were discussing menstruation, even in front of male volunteers. "It was encouraging to see that women didn't hesitate to speak up in front of Plog Raja. It shows how normalising such conversations can shift mindsets. I hope more people like him come forward to support such causes," she said.

Plog Raja, founder of The Indian Ploggers Army, said the group has been conducting similar drives across Bengaluru. "We've seen firsthand the environmental damage caused by disposable sanitary products. Through these drives, we not only raise awareness but also offer ongoing support to women who wish to switch to sustainable options," he said.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Water wastage
Horamavu

Cauvery water is leaking near the Horamavu underpass and flowing down the road. Residents urge BWSSB to take immediate action to stop the wastage.

Road distress
Jayamahal

The stretch from Jayamahal to Cantonment Station is riddled with damage. Commuters call for immediate repair to ensure safer travel.

Trash trouble
Chinmaya

Uncollected garbage at 485, Chinmaya Mission Hospital Road near Paradise Hotel, Indiranagar 1st Stage, raises hygiene concerns for locals

'Demand, acceptance proof needed'

The Karnataka High Court determined that both demand and acceptance are essential prerequisites for an offence under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, emphasising that these two elements must be conclusively established.

A petition was filed challenging the registration of a criminal case under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The case involved a contract driver (second accused/petitioner) employed by BESCOM for approximately one month before the incident. The complainant, an electrical contractor, had sought BESCOM's assistance to convert a work order from HT-2B1 (commercial tariff) to HT-2A1 (industrial tariff). The first accused demanded Rs 10 lakh, leading to a Lokayukta complaint.

The petitioner claimed innocence, stating he was called to the office by the first accused, asked to wait outside, and instructed to place a bag in the car boot. During this action, Lokayukta officials conducted their operation. The Court found no evidence against the petitioner, noting that all recordings implicated only the first accused. **BMB**

State backed on reservation stance

The Karnataka High Court has upheld the state government's stance on not implementing roster-based reservation for anganwadi worker positions, stating these roles are honorary rather than civil service posts.

The court noted that anganwadi workers receive an honorarium instead of a salary, making roster-based reservations unnecessary for these honorary positions.

Justice MI Arun delivered the ruling whilst dismissing a petition from Vijayalakshmi, a 28-year-old ST community member from Vijayapura district. She had challenged the government's decision to exclude caste-based reservations in anganwadi worker appointments.

The state government clarified its practice of appointing Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) individuals as anganwadi workers in areas where these communities constitute over 40 per cent of the population.

The government emphasised that anganwadi workers must gain trust from all villagers and provide care for children across communities, with appointments considering these crucial factors. **BMB**

Suspected SIM box racket sparks alarm

SIM box fraud compromises secure and legitimate mobile networks, exposes vulnerabilities in telecom systems, and enables cyber-enabled crimes to flourish undetected, say cybercrime experts

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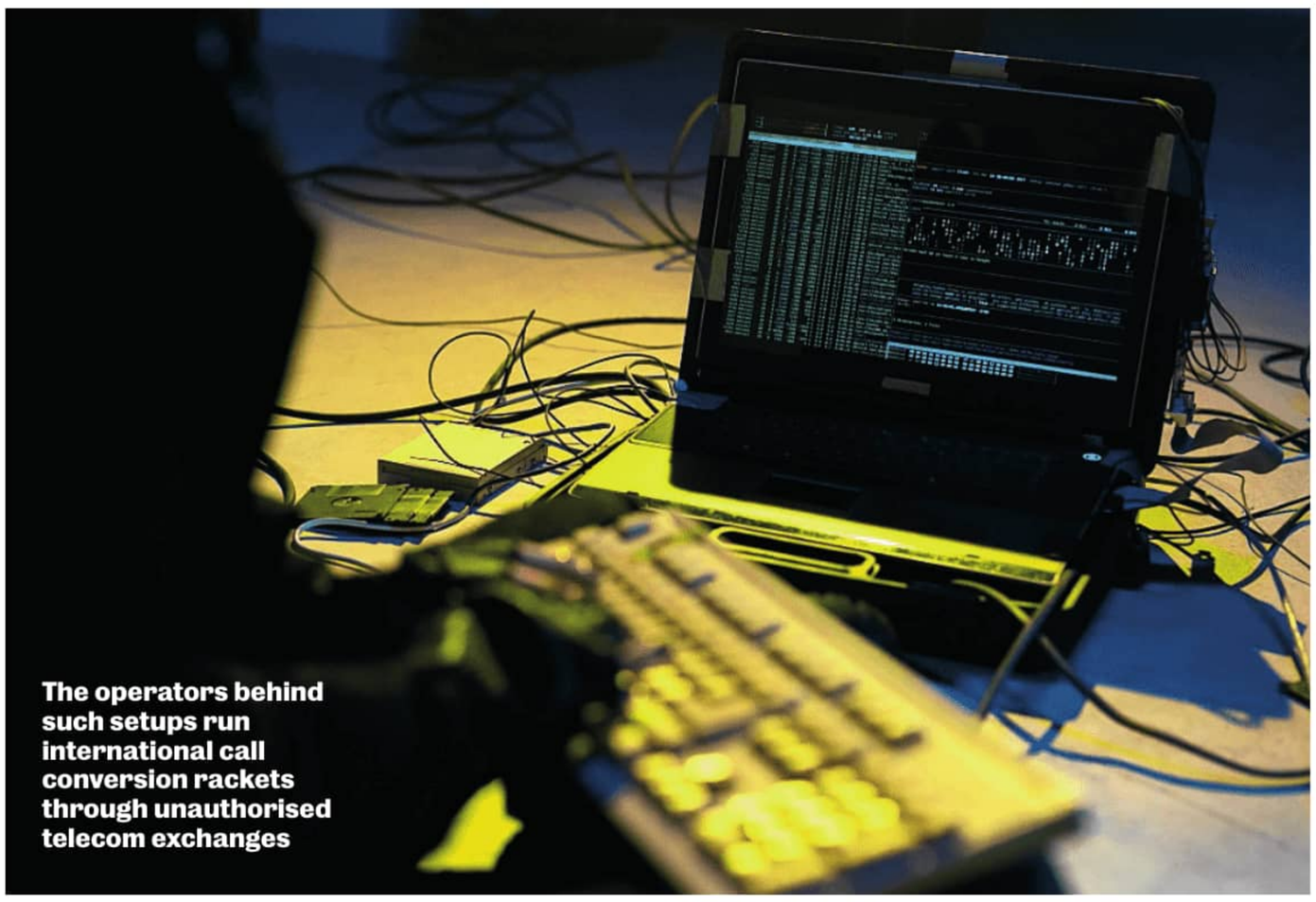

The operators behind such setups run international call conversion rackets through unauthorised telecom exchanges

A leading telecom service provider has lodged a formal complaint alleging the operation of an illegal telephone exchange in Whitefield, Bengaluru. The alleged setup involves unauthorized use of SIM cards to convert international calls into local ones, a practice that undermines both telecom revenues and national security.

According to the complaint filed on July 30, the company's Nodal Officer acted on information received from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), which pointed to suspicious activity in certain areas of Whitefield. It is alleged that multiple SIM cards issued by the provider were being used in SIM box devices, equipment commonly associated with interconnect bypass fraud.

The complainant claims that 42 SIM cards were inserted into these devices without authorisation. The individuals behind the operation are suspected to have illegally set up a telecom exchange without a valid license, violating telecommunications regulations and compromising surveillance mechanisms.

What is SIM box fraud?

SIM box fraud, also known as interconnect bypass fraud, involves the use of specialised devices that can hold multiple SIM cards. These devices are used to reroute international calls through local mobile networks, making them appear as domestic calls to the recipient. This technique enables fraudsters to bypass international gateway charges and illegally profit at the expense of telecom service providers.

The operators behind such setups run international call conversion rackets through unauthorised telecom exchanges. By converting overseas calls into local ones, they not only cheat telecom regulatory authorities and mobile network operators, but also pose a serious threat to national security. These calls often go undetected by surveillance systems, as they bypass legal interception protocols, making it difficult for enforcement agencies to trace them.

Fraudsters typically obtain SIM cards using forged documents and insert them into SIM box devices. "Each SIM card, often pre-paid and activated with fake identities, is capable of rerouting VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) calls into standard mobile calls. This manipulation deceives telecom infrastructure into treating international calls as local, thereby allowing criminals to evade higher call tariffs," explained Chetan Anand, national cyber security scholar and cybercrime intervention officer.

> **"SIM box fraud, also known as interconnect bypass fraud, involves the use of specialised devices that can hold multiple SIM cards**

Cybercrime experts warn that SIM box fraud goes far beyond monetary loss. It compromises secure and legitimate mobile networks, exposes vulnerabilities in telecom systems, and enables cyber-enabled crimes to flourish undetected. "The repercussions are not just financial," said Anand, adding that it is a multi-dimensional threat that undermines lawful communication monitoring and public safety.

Similar rackets busted

Although the current case is still under investigation, Bengaluru has previously seen similar illegal telecom operations. In June 2021, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) busted a major SIM box racket in the city, seizing over 100 SIM box devices and thousands of SIM cards. The case triggered concern over unregulated international call routing and led to increased vigilance from telecom regulators.

"The misuse of telecom infrastructure, especially through unauthorised SIM activations, poses a dual threat, it enables cyber-enabled crimes and undermines national security," said Mirza Faizan Assad, advocate and cybercrime expert, while speaking to BM.

PG owner held for raping college student

A 37-year-old PG owner has been arrested for allegedly raping a college student in Soladevanahalli limits. The accused, identified as Ashraf, hails from Kerala and runs a paying guest accommodation in the area.

According to police, the survivor had moved into the PG just ten days ago. On Saturday night, Ashraf allegedly took her out in a car, drove to a secluded spot, and sexually assaulted her. He also threatened her against approaching the police.

Despite the intimidation, the student approached Soladevanahalli police and filed a complaint. Following the complaint, police registered a case, arrested Ashraf, and subjected the survivor to medical examination. Further investigation is underway. **BMB**

PM to inaugurate Namma Metro's Yellow Line

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bengaluru on August 10 to inaugurate the much-awaited Yellow Line of Namma Metro and lay the foundation stone for Phase-3 of the metro expansion.

Announcing the visit, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya said the 19.15-km Yellow Line, connecting RV Road to Bommasandra with 16 stations, is expected to serve nearly eight lakh commuters and significantly ease the notorious Silk Board traffic bottleneck.

Built at a cost of Rs 5,056.99 crore, the Yellow Line marks a major boost to the city's public transport network. During the visit, the Prime Minister will also launch the Rs 15,611-crore Phase-3 project covering 44.65 km—an initiative that secured Cabinet clearance within the first 100 days of his third term. **BMB**

Viral post slams B'luru's civic woes, sparks debate

A Bengaluru-based doctor's scathing social media post criticising the city's poor civic infrastructure has gone viral, striking a chord with many. Dr Nandita Iyer, frustrated after being stuck in traffic for nearly three hours to cover just 15 km via Varthur, described the situation as "total civic chaos."

In her widely shared post on X (formerly Twitter), Dr Iyer highlighted issues such as pothole-ridden roads, traffic mismanagement, wrong-side driving, and the absence of effective policing. She slammed the lack of accountability and called out the government's indifference to law-abiding, tax-paying citizens.

Her post triggered a wave of reactions, not only from Bengaluru residents but also from citizens in other cities like Mumbai and Pune, who echoed similar frustrations. Many commented on the long-term health impact of such commutes and criticised the prioritisation of glamour projects. **BMB**

Volunteers and BBMP unite to transform iconic Promenade Road

Volunteers, civic staff and the Indian Army join hands to reclaim footpaths, clean streets and revive walkability in cantonment zone

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Broken walkways get a makeover as teams clear weeds, repair slabs, and create a cleaner, greener, more walkable public space

Over 60 citizen volunteers came out on Saturday to give a facelift to a prominent part of Promenade Road — the tree-lined road that connects the famous Thom's Bakery to Halasuru Lake, right opposite the MEG Headquarters and Mess.

Around 50 volunteers from the JLL Heart Warmers team, along with 10 BBMP staff from Pulakeshinagar, took part in the public space transformation drive. The initiative was facilitated by The Ugly Indians (TUI) in partnership with the Indian Army.

Promenade Road, which runs parallel to St John's Church Road, lies in the heart of the city's army cantonment zone — home to colonial-era military buildings, officers' quarters, and heritage trees. Despite being a green lung of the city, the footpaths here have long remained neglected — plagued by broken slabs, overgrown vegetation, garbage dumping and encroachments, making it unsafe and inconvenient for pedestrians.

A project to reclaim and restore the stretch to a walkable, welcoming space is now underway. The BBMP began by thoroughly cleaning the sidewalks, followed by a wall beautification effort that brought a splash of colour and vibrancy to the area. While work is still ongoing, the visible changes already mark a significant improvement. The entire footpath is expected to be fully restored in the coming weeks.

> **"Working with citizens and government, using our own hands, time, and resources, a lot gets achieved.** – TUI coordinator

The coordinated effort between BBMP staff, citizen volunteers and personnel from the Madras Engineer Group (MEG) has been widely appreciated. Volunteers say the collaboration shows what's possible when different stakeholders come together with a shared goal.

The clean-up is part of the ongoing CleanStreets500K Challenge, a citywide initiative in collaboration with BBMP, aimed at cleaning and revamping 500 km of city streets and footpaths. The project encourages active participation from citizens, corporates, and institutions.

"When citizens, concerned companies and government bodies come together and work hands-on using their own time, energy and resources a lot can be achieved," said a TUI coordinator. "Partnering with the Indian Army has been deeply fulfilling. They protect our borders, and this is our way of supporting them by improving public spaces outside their properties."

Jitty Chacko, Director at Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), said he was proud to be part of the clean-up team. "We beautified and developed several black spots along the stretch. It was a deeply satisfying experience," he said.

Suburban railway faces new hurdle

The Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project has hit yet another roadblock, as infrastructure major L&T has abruptly terminated its contracts for Corridors 2 (Chikkabanavara–Benniganahalli) and 4 (Heelalige–Rajankunte), citing inadequate land handover. However, project authority K-RIDE has strongly contested the move, calling it a breach of contract and terming the termination both unilateral and illegal. According to K-RIDE, 84% of land for Corridor 2 and 17 km of Corridor 4 had already been handed over, but L&T lagged in progress due to delays in resource mobilization, design finalization, and frequent changes in leadership.

Despite contractual provisions allowing time extensions and dispute resolution through an Amicable Settlement Committee, K-RIDE alleges L&T opted out without exhausting these mechanisms. The fallout is expected to significantly delay the already sluggish project, with Corridor 2 now unlikely to meet its revised September 2026 deadline, and Corridor 4 facing similar delays. K-RIDE is now exploring alternatives to resume construction. **— BMB**

Single window eases festive permits

To ensure smooth and safe celebrations during the upcoming Gauri-Ganesha festival, BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao announced the launch of a single-window permission system across 75 BBMP sub-divisional offices. These centres will bring together officials from BBMP, Police, BESCOM, and the Fire Department to provide all necessary clearances under one roof.

A detailed list of centres and nodal officers will be released online soon. Citizens are encouraged to opt for eco-friendly festivities and refrain from using polluting materials. Roads along procession routes will be repaired, with temporary fixes for white-topped road sections.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh urged citizens to follow BBMP and police guidelines, avoid placing idols on roads, and support efficient procession route management. Public suggestions included banning DJs and loudspeakers, repairing roads in advance, enhancing BESCOM safety, deploying police in sensitive areas, installing CCTV cameras in crowded zones, banning alcohol during processions, and ensuring cleanliness around lakes after idol immersion. **— BMB**

Rain deficit threatens crop lifeline

Despite widespread rain across Karnataka, nine districts including Bengaluru Urban, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur have recorded 25% below-average rainfall by July-end. Known for ragi cultivation, these semi-arid regions now face water scarcity as tanks remain dry. In contrast, 21 districts report excess rain and flooding. Experts warn that while current soil moisture may support crops for now, a continued shortfall could severely affect irrigation and drinking water supply. The rainfall deficit raises concerns of impending agricultural distress in a region already vulnerable to erratic monsoons. **— BMB**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Almost CM

Congress veteran Mallikarjun Kharge got nostalgic in Vijayapura, recalling how the CM post slipped away two decades ago. "I worked hard in 1999 to bring the party to power, but SM Krishna became CM," he said. From being city president in 1969 to AICC chief today, Kharge gave a subtle political flex — while gently nursing that missed CM tag.

Maha move

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar cheekily thanked his Maharashtra counterpart for admitting Bengaluru is now the tech magnet. Speaking at Quantum India Bengaluru 2025, he said Karnataka is no longer in a turf war with Telangana, Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu — "we're playing on a global field," he declared. Referring to recent remarks by Maharashtra's Deputy CM on IT firms shifting base, Shivakumar extended a warm invite: "We welcome them with open arms and will provide all necessary infrastructure." While inter-state tech rivalries aren't new, this Karnataka-Maharashtra banter adds a quirky twist to the digital migration race where even relocations come with startup swag.

Snake fest

Faith and fearlessness came together at the Kondamayi fair in Kandakoor village, where devotees were seen grabbing live scorpions with bare hands! Celebrated on Nagara Panchami, the annual fair saw thousands gather to dig out rocks from a nearby hill — all to catch and play with the creatures. Locals believe scorpions don't sting on this auspicious day, and even if they do, a touch of vermilion from the hilltop temple will heal it. This scorpion-studded celebration even drew curious visitors from neighbouring states.

Deadly alive

In a bizarre bureaucratic blunder, a man was declared dead while applying for a caste certificate. When Prakash applied on behalf of his brother Ravikumar, the system flagged a chilling error: "The person is not alive." Officials later found the Kolar City Municipal Council had already issued a death certificate for Ravikumar — dated January 26, 2025 — even though he's alive and well. A complaint has been filed, and an investigation is underway into this digital death certificate disaster.

Booze bananza

Binnal village in Koppal district is on a bold mission — fighting addiction with fines and Gandhigiri! Come drunk? Pay ₹1 lakh. Caught gambling? ₹25,000. Alcohol sales? Banned. Even playing cards aren't allowed. Locals are actively reporting offenders, and fines go to the village temple. PSI T Gururaj is leading awareness drives as the village turns sobriety into a movement. Repeat offenders and enablers are fined, and loud drunks? Definitely fined. Binnal is redefining discipline — one penalty at a time.

'I'm smiling, not stepping down!'

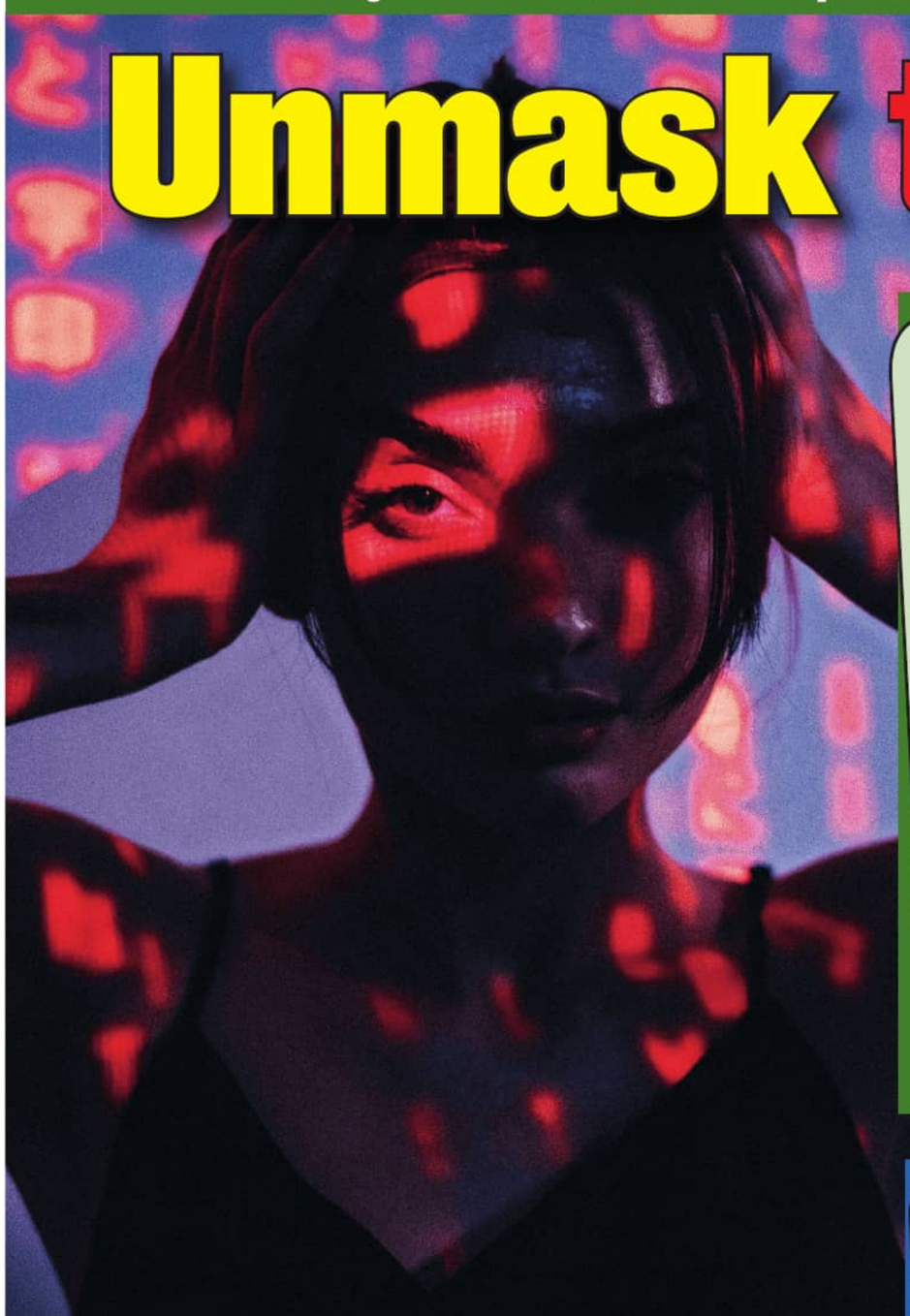
"Does this smiling face look like someone about to be replaced?" quipped BJP State President BY Vijayendra when asked about rumours of his exit. Speaking to reporters, he brushed off the buzz, saying, "I have full confidence that I will continue as state president. I've been working relentlessly for one and a half years. The cadre and the high command are satisfied with my work." While the final decision lies with the high command, Vijayendra's smile said it all — he's not going anywhere just yet.

— Sridhar Vivan

BM SIMPLY PUT

Today we take a look at the phenomenon of online harassment

Unmask the troll



Last week was packed with high-voltage drama as actress Ramya filed a police complaint against online trolls, sparking widespread debate. With several actors echoing her concerns, Bangalore Mirror takes a deep dive into the world of digital trolling and its many faces.

The six faces of trolls — As per psychologists

Hyper-Critical Trolls
Always spotting tiny flaws in others. Even if they know they're wrong, they use harsh words to provoke.

Nonsensical Critics
Troll without context or logic. Their comments are random, irrational, and best ignored.

Pretend Jokers
Mask their malice with humor. Jealous of others' success, they act nice but backstab with sarcasm or gossip.

Aggressive Abusers
Share obscene, hateful, sexist, or communal content with zero regard for decency or the law.

Black-Hat Trolls (a.k.a. Hack-Trolls)
Create fake accounts to launch smear campaigns, manipulating public opinion or targeting individuals with doctored content.

Obsessional Trolls
Often fans-turned-haters. They obsessively follow celebrities or brands, trolling them out of misplaced love, disappointment, or entitlement.

What is trolling?

Trolling is the act of deliberately posting inflammatory, insulting, or offensive content online to provoke or mentally disturb someone. It's a form of digital harassment — often faceless, shameless, and borderless. Trolls may leave demeaning comments, misuse your photo for malicious posts, spread false information, or make obscene remarks — all for attention, amusement, or personal vendetta.

Did trolling exist before the internet?

Yes — in a different form. Let's rewind to 680 BCE in ancient Greece. A satirical poet named Archilochus wandered from city to city, seeking royal patronage. If a king supported him with food and shelter, Archilochus would praise him in poetry. If rejected, he would unleash biting satire, spreading whispers and insults through his verses. His words often terrified rulers so much that they offered him basic sustenance just to avoid becoming the subject of ridicule. This is proto-trolling — mockery used as a tool of influence.

Why do trolls feel so bold online?

In real life, societal norms and fear of judgment keep people from acting out wild thoughts — like stealing gold in a store or kissing a stranger. But the virtual world erases that boundary. Hidden behind fake profiles, trolls become "faceless" entities. They don't fear consequences because they feel anonymous and untraceable.

What makes online world fertile ground for trolls?

Today, everyone has carved out a personal kingdom on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube. In this virtual world, your online identity can be even more influential than your real-life presence. But just as good people exist online, so do toxic ones. For some, spreading hate and negativity has become as effortless as drinking water.

Why don't social platforms stop trolls?

Because of scale and profit. India alone reportedly has 200 million fake Facebook accounts. Despite this, social media companies haven't taken strong enough action. Occasionally, they deactivate accounts or act on reports, but it's often too little, too late.

What can be done to fix this?

Just as Aadhaar is required to open a bank account or buy a SIM card, similar mandatory ID verification could be introduced for social media accounts to curb misuse. Tech platforms earning billions must be held accountable by employing at least 100 content moderators per language to actively monitor abusive content. A robust and swift reporting mechanism should ensure every flagged post is thoroughly reviewed. Additionally, the government must implement clear laws and enforce existing provisions under the IT Act and IPC to deter cyber abuse and hold trolls accountable.

Celebrities who've taken a stand

Recently, Kannada anchor-turned-actress Jhanvi took legal action after a fake post went viral, falsely quoting her personal statements. Similarly, actress Ramya filed a police complaint against fans of another actor who trolled her with vulgar content. Even Bollywood stars like Ranbir Kapoor, Aamir Khan, Saif Ali Khan, and Rani Mukerji have distanced themselves from social media, tired of constant trolling.

How to handle trolls

A psychologist said, "Think twice before posting personal photos and keep your profiles private whenever possible. Avoid responding to trolls—don't engage, simply report and block. Always maintain calm and professionalism in your online interactions. If trolling begins to affect your mental peace, talk to a trusted friend or confidant. And if the situation worsens, don't hesitate to approach cybercrime authorities for help."

What does the law say?

Using vulgar language or sexually harassing someone online is a serious criminal offense under the IT Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), with offenders facing 3 to 5 years of imprisonment, particularly when the target is a woman. Experts emphasise that digital harassment is no less serious than physical abuse, and victims are urged to file police complaints without delay to ensure swift legal action.

Govt seeks pvt buses' support during strike

With talks failing between the government and transport employees over their demands, Karnataka has begun exploring alternative arrangements to ensure uninterrupted services if the strike begins on August 5. In a meeting chaired by the Transport Commissioner on Saturday, private vehicle owners were urged to support public transport services by operating private buses, taxis, and commercial vehicles at fares fixed for KSRTC and BMTC buses. Owners of over 5,000 private buses, 11,000 school vehicles, and 6,000 maxi cabs agreed to help but placed demands in return — including reduction of Karnataka's comparatively high motor vehicle tax, a 15-day tax exemption during the strike, 50% reduction on various old penalties, an end to government buses operating beyond designated routes, a clear 60:40 operational rule for government-private bus services, and proper security for their vehicles during the strike. The Commissioner assured that all demands would be conveyed to the government and necessary efforts would be made to address them. **–BMB**

Prajwal is prisoner no. 15528

Suspended JD(S) leader and former MP Prajwal Revanna, convicted in a rape case, has been assigned prisoner number 15528 at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, where he began serving his life sentence. The 34-year-old grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, reportedly broke down during a late-night medical check-up on Saturday and appeared visibly distressed. Prison authorities confirmed that he has been lodged in a high-security cell with enhanced protection and must follow the standard convict dress code. Revanna has informed jail staff that he has moved the High Court to challenge his conviction. Sentenced to life imprisonment and fined ₹11.5 lakh—of which ₹11.25 lakh is to be paid to the victim, a former domestic help—the verdict was delivered by Special Judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat, who found him guilty in one of four sexual assault cases filed against him. **–BMB**

'AI disruptions will be brief'

Disruptions from Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be brief and new jobs will emerge, IT and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge has said, highlighting the state's large-scale reskilling initiatives are underway to prepare talent for new-age technologies. In an interview with PTI, Kharge asserted that Karnataka retains a comfortable lead over others in technology, with strong data and performance vectors backing its position.

The state encourages innovation and collaboration, ensuring "that any entrepreneur or corporation who dreams of making it big globally, starts from Karnataka", he noted. On the issue of disruptions due to AI, the minister said, Nipuna Karnataka, the state's large-scale reskilling and upskilling initiative, aims at safeguarding and future-proofing its talent pool. **–PTI**

Rainy day mishap

A BMTC bus crashed into a tree at KR Circle on Sunday evening after the bus brakes failed. One woman passenger suffered minor injuries. PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Karnataka CEO refutes claim of forged voter list

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Karnataka has issued a firm response to a recent letter by former minister and Congress leader H Nagesh, who sought a copy of a letter he claimed to have submitted in April 2023, alleging forged entries in the voter list for the Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency.

In a letter dated August 2, 2025, Joint Chief Electoral Officer S. Yogeshwar clarified that the office has no record of receiving any such document from Nagesh in April 2023.

The CEO's response came after Nagesh, in a letter dated July 31 2025, requested a copy of the alleged submission, stating that his team had misplaced the original documents listing forged entries in the voters list.

"This office does not have records of any such letter received from you during April 2023 on the issue of electoral rolls," the CEO's letter stated, adding that the matter was suddenly raised now, more than two years after the alleged submission.

"The office has a statutory copy of the electoral roll, which is available online and is always handed over to the candidates during the elections, including you while you were a contesting candidate," the CEO's letter noted. IANS

Eviction efforts entangled in real red tape

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Out of the 472 acres of encroached lake land identified, 285 acres are occupied by government bodies, while 198 acres are under private encroachment. The presence of government agencies as primary violators has stalled eviction drives, with many cases now stuck in litigation.

An official from the BBMP lake division, speaking anonymously, admitted that eviction efforts are slow largely because the biggest defaulters are government institutions themselves. In areas like Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli zones — home to a high concentration of lakes — the extent of encroachment is particularly severe. While notices have been issued to several private encroachers, many have obtained stay orders from courts, further slowing BBMP's progress. As a result, the civic body is now considering legal strategy revamps to break the deadlock.

Buffer zones & final surveys awaited: The identification of buffer zones and full demarcation of lake areas remain incomplete. BBMP officials await the completion of pending surveys by the revenue department to initiate further eviction drives. Until then, the civic body's hands remain tied — even as the city's lakes continue to shrink under the weight of its own governance.

Highs and lows in Bengaluru

SYNTHETIC DRUG SEIZURE SNAPSHOT (2024–MID 2025)

Drug Type	Seized in 2024	Seized in '25 (till June)
MDMA (Ecstasy)	35.725 kg (139 arrests)	17.32 kg (64 arrests)
LSD Strips	3,770 units (6 cases)	1 unit (1 case)
Ecstasy/ Yaba Tablets	15,448 tablets (7 cases)	1,422 tablets (3 cases)
Cocaine	3.947 kg	0.125 kg
Hashish Oil	2.4 kg	4.6 kg
Amphetamine	6.725 kg	0.027 kg
Foreigners Arrested	61	17

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the first six months of 2025, despite a lower number of cases, police seized over 17 kg of MDMA, 1,422 Ecstasy tablets, and 4.6 kg of hashish oil, pointing to bigger hauls and more organised trading patterns.

Officials cite several major busts over the past year that point to foreign nationals as key players. In one of the biggest seizures in December 2024, police intercepted a courier parcel carrying 12 kg of MDMA worth ₹24 crore linked to a foreigner woman. In May 2025, another foreigner was arrested on the city's outskirts with a haul worth ₹4 crore. Nigerians were arrested in two separate cases in June and July with over 8 kg of synthetic drugs combined, revealing repeat use of courier channels and fake documentation.

What about 'legal highs'?

Mental health experts are raising red flags over the growing use of synthetic drugs among Bengaluru's youth, particularly those between the ages of 15 and 30 years. These substances are often misleadingly marketed as "legal" or "safe" alternatives to conventional narcotics, making them more appealing and accessible to young users.

Dr Sachin Baliga, Consultant Psychiatrist at Fortis Hospital, explained that many of these drugs are simply slightly altered versions of known compounds, like mephedrone, allowing them to temporarily bypass regulation under the NDPS Act. "The effects can be just as harmful, if not worse, than natural drugs, ranging from elevated heart rate and seizures to psychosis. Prolonged use may lead to addiction, cognitive decline, and severe mental health issues," he said. Dr Baliga also warned that the lack of regulation and consistency in chemical makeup makes these drugs especially dangerous, with unpredictable and potentially fatal outcomes. He told BM the trend was a rising public health concern.

Enforcement tightens

Even as synthetic drugs grow in value, Ganja remains the most seized by volume. In 2024, police seized over 1,880 kg of it, and booked 499 cases and by June 2025, another 812 kg had been recovered and 232 cases were been booked. But officials note that the quantity per bust is increasing, indicating a shift from scattered personal use to more organised, bulk trafficking.

The nature of drug dealing itself has changed. "It's no longer the street pusher. Everything happens over social media or encrypted chats," said a senior police officer.

To tackle this, the city police are holding regular coordination meetings with departments like Social Welfare, Revenue, and Health and Family Welfare to share data and strategies responses. Surveillance at entry and exit points, especially airports, foreign postal services, and private courier hubs, has been intensified. K9 squads are now regularly deployed at these points to check for illegal consignments.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, addressing the press last week, emphasised the need for tighter digital tracking, coordinated meetings, and awareness campaigns, particularly in educational institutions and tech parks.

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Interested candidates are requested to report to the institution for personal interview at 10.00 AM on 06.08.2025.

-sd-
Director

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HIMANI AGGARWAL Resident At Flat No A-103, Mantri Webcity, Near South Asian Bible College, Kothanur, Bengaluru- 560077, have changed my name to HIMANI DHINGRA vide affidavit dated: 13.05.2025 Sworn before notary: D Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru

I, Salman Dalla s/o Mohammed ilyas Dalla R/o 569, 8th main, 1st stage, 5th block, HBR Lyt, Banaswadi, Kalyannagar, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Mohammed Salman Dalla. I shall called by this name for all purposes

I, Mohammed Zaferulla R/o No 19, 4th Cross JC Nagar Bangalore 560006 Have Changed my name From Mohammed Zaferullah to Mohammed Zaferulla for All Purposes.

I, ROHIT Resident At Flat No A-103, Mantri Webcity, Near South Asian Bible College, Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077,have changed my name to ROHIT DHINGRA vide affidavit dated: 13.05.2025 Sworn before notary: D Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru

I, Bhanwar Kunwar M/O No 14852350Y Hav CS Bhati resi of Jodhpur, Rajasthan have changed my name to Bhanwar Kanwar before notary pub Bangalore

I, Debu Kanwar Rathore W/O No 14852350Y Hav CS Bhati resi of Jodhpur, Rajasthan have changed my name to Debu Kanwar Bhati before notary pub Bangalore.

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GUJARAT/RAJASTHAN* 12/16*/25 DAYS
Sept: 3, 12*, 15, 17, 22 26* Oct: 1, 6, 15, 17, 24, 24*
KASHI AYODHYA/BADRINATH KEDARNATH* 11/21/14*
Sept: 5*, 8, 14, 15*, 21, 28* Oct: 3, 9, 10*, 16*
MADHYA PRADESH 15 DAYS
Sept: 27 Oct: 10, 17, 24, 31 Nov: 14, 28 Dec: 5, 12, 19, 28
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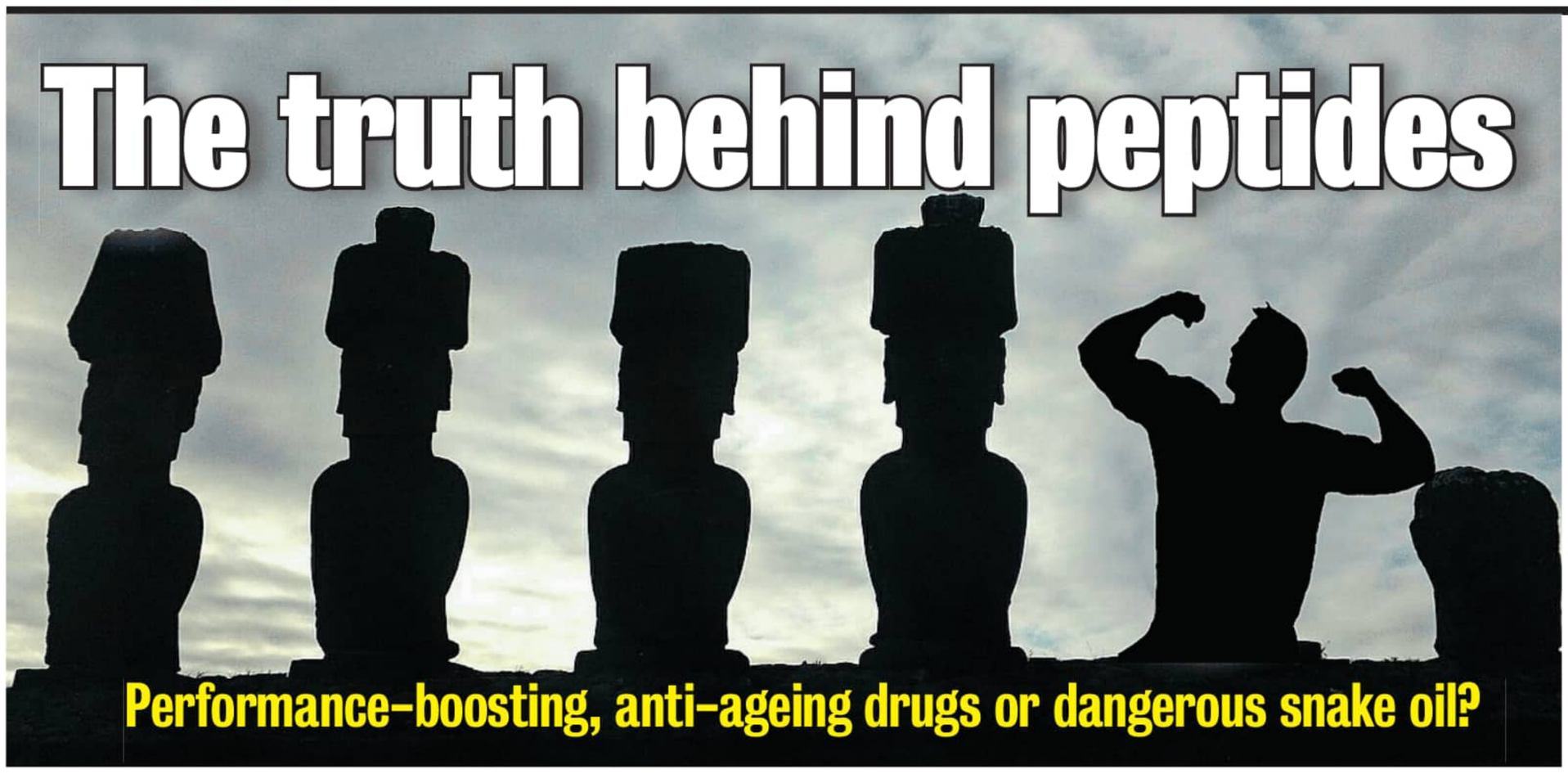
The truth behind peptides



Performance-boosting, anti-ageing drugs or dangerous snake oil?

For a growing number of middle-aged men, ageing no longer means surrendering to sagging skin, sore joints or slowing metabolism. Instead, it's becoming a science experiment. The new frontier? Injectable peptides – experimental compounds that promise rapid recovery, fat loss and muscle gains with the ease of a twice-daily to weekly jab.

Once confined to elite labs and obscure bodybuilding forums, these amino acid chains are now flooding wellness spaces, social media feeds and online marketplaces. Although they are marketed as "next-generation biohacks" and "research chemicals", many peptides are not approved for human use and lack basic clinical testing. Still, their popularity is growing – fuelled by testimonials, influencer hype and the promise of turning back time.

But beneath the surface of glossy marketing and fitness fantasies lies a far more sobering truth: many of these substances operate in a medical grey zone, with unknown long-term risks, questionable manufacturing standards, and in some cases, life-threatening side-effects.

Peptides aren't entirely new to medicine. The first peptide drug – insulin – was isolated in 1921 and became commercially available in 1923. Today over 100 peptide medications are approved, including semaglutide – better known as Ozempic and Wegovy.

But the compounds now circulating in fitness communities represent a very different category. They're experimental substances that have shown promise in animal studies but have never undergone proper human trials.

The 'Wolverine stack'

One such compound, first discovered in human gastric juice, that is attracting lots of attention is BPC-157. Early animal studies suggest it may help repair damaged tissue throughout the body.

Researchers tested it on mice, rats, rabbits and dogs without finding serious side-effects. The compound appears to support healing of the tendons, teeth and digestive organs, including the stomach, intestines, liver and pancreas. Scientists don't fully understand how BPC-157 works, but animal studies suggest it triggers biological processes essential for healing.

> **Many of these substances operate in a medical grey zone, with unknown long-term risks, questionable manufacturing standards, and side-effects**

Another compound gaining attention is TB500. It is a synthetic version of thymosin beta-4, a naturally occurring protein fragment that plays an important role in repairing and regenerating damaged cells and tissues. It also helps protect cells from further harm by reducing inflammation and defending against microbes. The combination of BPC-157 and TB500 has earned the nickname "the Wolverine stack", named after the Marvel superhero famous for his rapid healing.

Then there's IGF-1 LR3, a modified version of a natural protein (IGF-1) linked to muscle growth. This synthetic compound was shown to increase muscle mass by 2.5 times in animal studies, though it has never been studied in humans.

The limited human research that does exist for these compounds offers inconclusive results. For example, a study showed that over 90% of patients experienced reduced knee pain after BPC-157 injections. But, the study had no control group and several methodological issues, so the results should be viewed with caution.

Hidden dangers

Though the early results seem exciting, these experimental compounds can be dangerous. Making them involves special chemicals called coupling agents, which can trigger serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis – a life-threatening condition.

Long-term injection of performance-enhancing substances can lead to heart failure that can occur rapidly with little warning, as documented in recent medical case studies of young bodybuilders.

Injection-related injuries pose another significant threat. "Compartment syndrome" can develop at injection sites in leg muscles, causing numbness, blood clots and muscle spasms that result in permanent loss of function.

In severe cases, skin and underlying tissue can suffer necrosis (tissue death), requiring antibiotics or surgery to treat. More alarming still are reports of users contracting HIV, hepatitis B and C, and serious eye infections from contaminated injections. These compounds don't just target muscles – they affect the entire body in ways scientists are only beginning to understand. Some interfere with natural insulin production, while others activate biological pathways that healthy cells use for growth and repair.

The concern is that these same pathways are exploited by cancer cells. The VEGF pathway, which promotes blood vessel growth, is active in about half of all human cancers, including melanoma and ovarian cancer. While there's no direct evidence linking compounds like BPC-157 or TB500 to cancer, researchers emphasise that the long-term effects remain unknown.

A growing problem

Yet their use appears to be spreading rapidly. A 2014 study found that 8.2% of gym members used performance-enhancing drugs. By 2024, a comprehensive review suggested the figure could be 29%.

These experimental compounds represent a dangerous gamble with long-term health. While they may promise enhanced performance and healing, they deliver it at a cost that users may not fully understand until it's too late.

(By Adam Taylor, Lancaster University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Multiple sclerosis may emerge decade before neurological symptoms appear

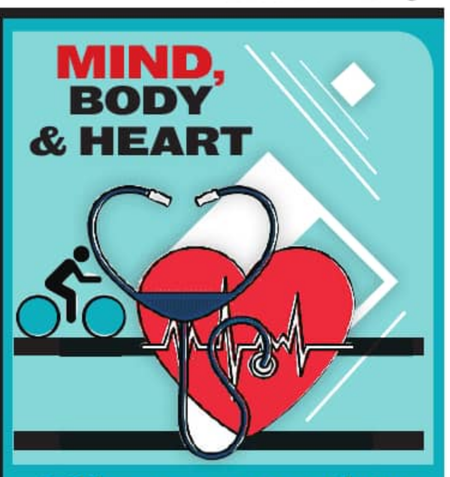
Multiple sclerosis (MS) may begin far earlier than previously thought. Canadian researchers have decoded that the earliest warning signs of the immune system disorder may emerge more than a decade before the first classical neurological symptoms occur.

The findings, published in JAMA Network Open, challenge long-held assumptions about when the disease truly begins, offering the most comprehensive picture to date of how patients engage with a range of health care providers in the years leading up to a diagnosis as they search for answers to ill-defined medical challenges.

"MS can be difficult to recognise as many of the earliest signs -- like fatigue, headache, pain and mental health concerns -- can be quite general and easily mistaken for other conditions," said senior author Dr. Helen Tremlett, Professor of neurology at the University of British Columbia.

"Our findings dramatically shift the timeline for when these early warning signs are thought to begin, potentially opening the door to opportunities for earlier detection and intervention," she added.

The study analysed the health records of more than 12,000 people in British Columbia and found that those with MS began using health care services at elevated rates 15 years before their first MS symptoms appeared. **-IANS**



All you need to know about...

Foods for weight gain

Full-Fat Dairy
Full-fat milk, yogurt, and cheese are calorie-dense, loaded with calcium, and contain quality proteins like casein and whey. Greek yogurt especially offers a protein punch. These dairy products contain high-quality proteins like casein (slow-digesting) and whey (fast-digesting), which help repair and build muscle. Greek yogurt, in particular, is a protein powerhouse and also supports gut health thanks to its probiotics.

Bananas
Bananas are one of the most underrated superfoods when it comes to healthy weight gain. They're a quick and convenient energy source, rich in fast-digesting carbs, potassium, vitamin B6, and natural sugars like glucose and fructose. One large banana has around 120 calories and offers the perfect blend of sweetness and substance to fuel your day.

Protein Smoothies
Homemade protein shakes are a game-changer when it comes to gaining healthy weight. Made with whole milk, nut butter, banana, oats, and a scoop of protein powder, these shakes can easily deliver 600–800 (or more!) nutrient-packed calories in a single glass. Ideal for busy mornings or post-workout recovery, these shakes are especially helpful for those with a fast metabolism or low appetite, as they're easier to consume than a full meal but just as effective at boosting calorie intake.

Rice
Rice is a staple carbohydrate that's calorie-dense and easy to digest. One cup of cooked white rice packs around 200 calories, and when paired with ghee, curry, or sautéed vegetables, it can easily become a high-calorie, nutrient-dense meal. Plus, rice is gluten-free, making it a safe carb source for those with sensitivities.

-Femina

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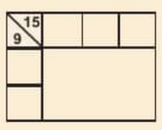
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

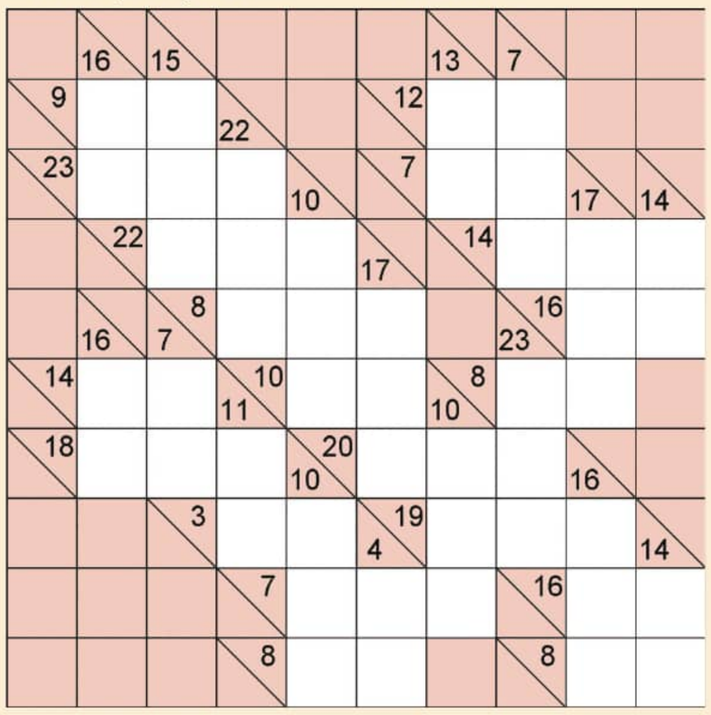
$300^2 + 5\hat{}x = 325^2$
$x = ?$

Kakuro

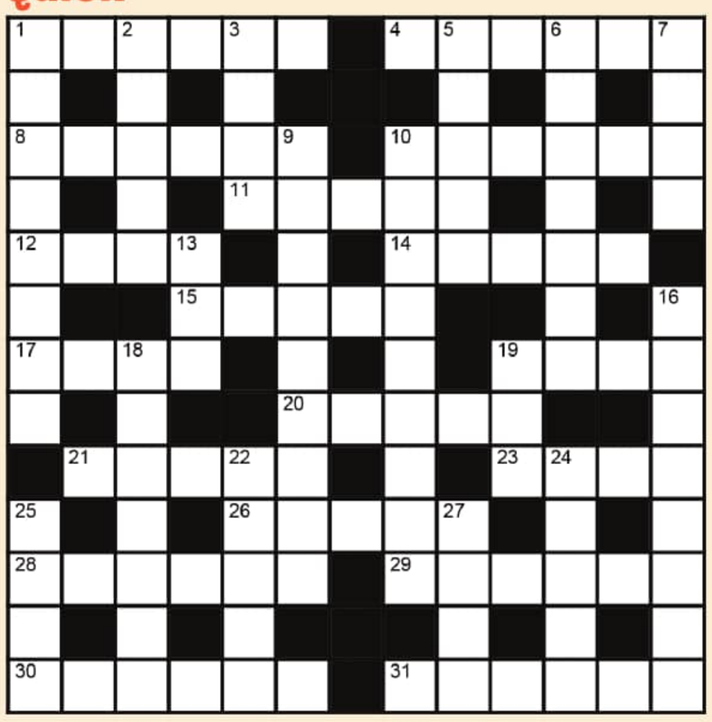
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Enthusiastic or strong (6)
4 Fly than can carry sleeping sickness (6)
8 Negligent miss of nursery rhyme (2,4)
10 Clowns or jesters (6)
11 Wanderer or member of a wandering tribe (5)
12 As ___ as : provided that? (4)
14 A coarse or an uncouth person or his cry? (5)
15 Star Trek lieutenant (5)
17 Another word for 'sense', 'wit', or 'intelligence' (4)
19 English exclamation (1,3)
20 ___ of : profit from (5)
21 Lamb sound (5)
23 An arm, or a leg (4)
26 Ferocious (5)
28 Greek geometrician (6)
29 Contrite (6)
30 Kind of gas (6)
31 Minister of religion (6)

DOWN

1 Walking haltingly (8)
2 US ski resort (5)
3 Young adult (4)
5 Czech car manufacturer (5)
6 Quakes or shudders (7)
7 Effortless (4)
9 Inhabited or lived in (9)
10 Area home to the City Central Library (9)
13 Augustine's pet name? (3)
16 Figurative (8)
18 Ill-fated (7)
19 ___ nature: churlishness? (3)
22 Blazing (5)
24 Deduce (5)
25 Fiddling emperor (4)
27 Quiet period (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS D

OYK GDZK IQH UMKZH'O NDAK OYK PDNYO QHZGKPZ, YK LMZKZ OYK PDNYO BEKZODMHZ.

Linemaro

You owe me money... for living in my heart without paying rent

Mindchow

Do what you feel in your heart to be right for you'll be criticised anyway

Joke of the day

I'm into carpooling, because sometimes my car gets hot and needs to refresh itself

Loop

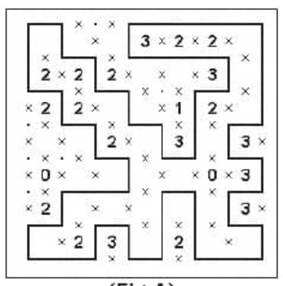
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

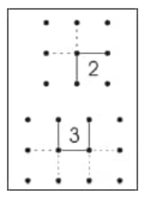
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

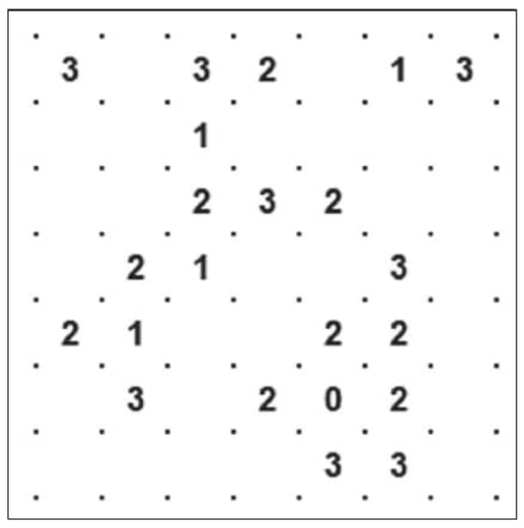
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



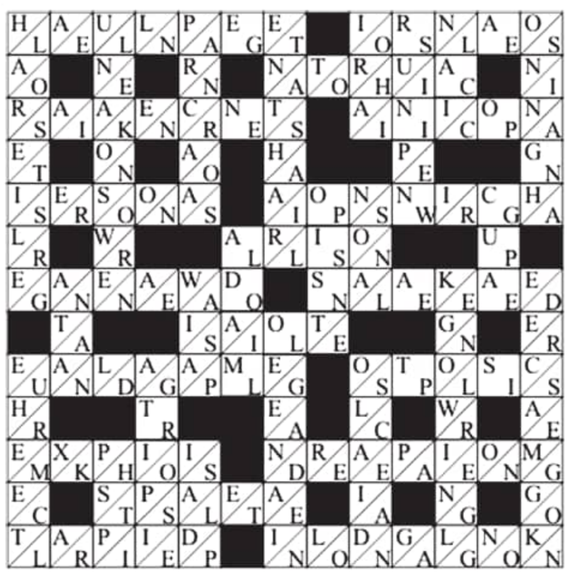
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8	M			
9				

ACROSS

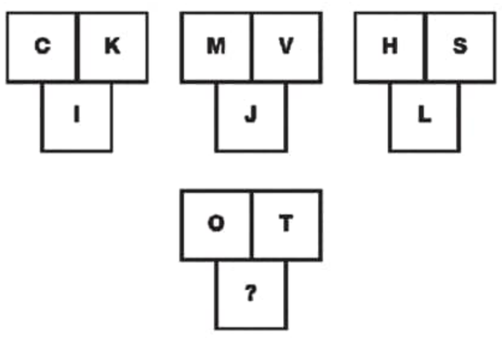
1 Bah us; 6 Slate; 7 Voile; 8 Me Reb; 9 Parsi

DOWN

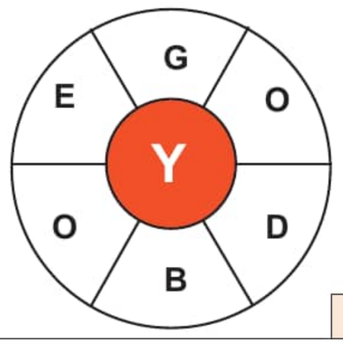
1 Estop; 2 Hamal; 3 Bail I; 4 Breve; 5 Suers

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		9		2		1		
2								3
3	1			8			5	2
	8						2	
	9	6	7		2	3	8	
	7						4	
7	4			1			6	9
9								4
		5		4		2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

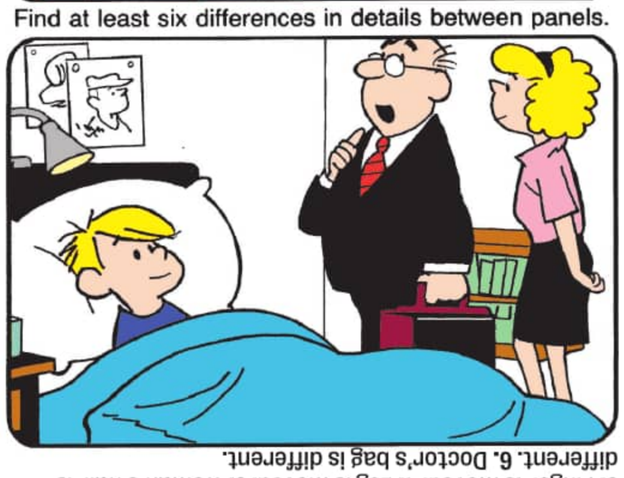
Easy = 13
4 7 7 9

Medium = 17
2 3 5 6

Hard = 8
2 2 2 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Light is different. 2. Apron is missing. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Woman's hair is different. 6. Doctor's bag is different.

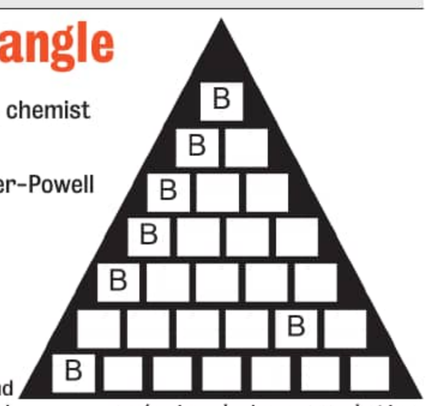
Riddler

In this teaser, I have given you 4 words. Beside each word are a series of letter groupings. Your task is to find the 8-letter answer to the word on the left by choosing one letter from each of the letter groups to the right of each clue.

1. Spine: btc har com bak bol tro and ent
2. Private: phr eal lrd oms gop nep anl wld
3. Proclaim: abc ran uon mou umk ens sch tec
4. Canine guard: cwt ahr ort cul ghi dgh hio trg

Alpha triangle

1 Type of vitamin
2 Beryllium for the chemist
3 Flower plot
4 Curve
5 Boy Scout founder-Powell
6 European river
7 Hair fastener

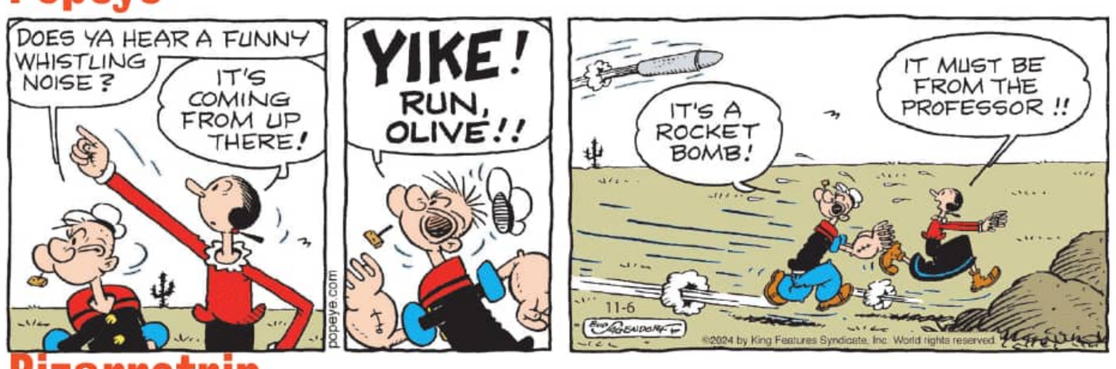


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


DOES YA HEAR A FUNNY WHISTLING NOISE?
IT'S COMING FROM UP THERE!
YIKE! RUN, OLIVE!!
IT'S A ROCKET BOMB!
IT MUST BE FROM THE PROFESSOR !!
popeye.com
11-6
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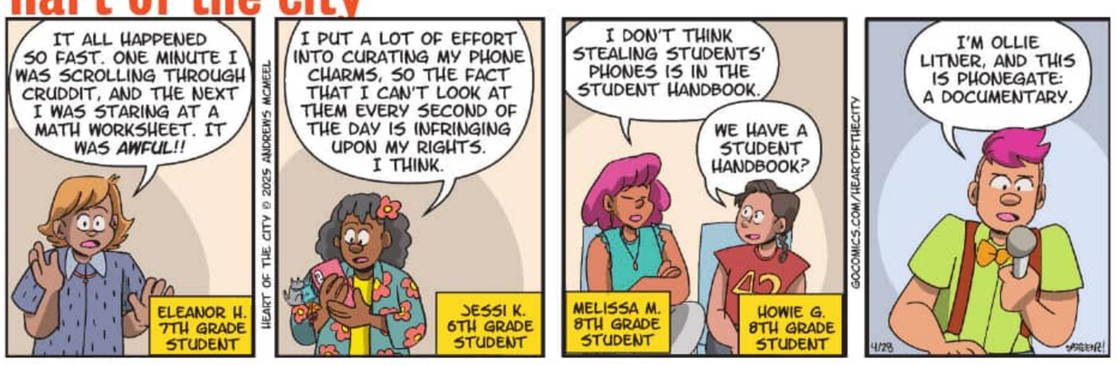
Bizarrotrip

Your honor, may I request that everyone speak very slowly?
All Rise
COURTROOM CALLIGRAPHER
Wayno & Piraro 4-28-25
©2025 BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST. ONE MINUTE I WAS SCROLLING THROUGH CRUDDIT, AND THE NEXT I WAS STARING AT A MATH WORKSHEET. IT WAS AWFUL!!
ELEANOR H. 7TH GRADE STUDENT
I PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO CURATING MY PHONE CHARMS, SO THE FACT THAT I CAN'T LOOK AT THEM EVERY SECOND OF THE DAY IS INFRINGING UPON MY RIGHTS. I THINK.
JESSI K. 6TH GRADE STUDENT
I DON'T THINK STEALING STUDENTS' PHONES IS IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK.
WE HAVE A STUDENT HANDBOOK?
MELISSA M. 8TH GRADE STUDENT
HOWIE G. 8TH GRADE STUDENT
I'M OLLIE LITNER, AND THIS IS PHONEGATE: A DOCUMENTARY.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

THIS IS QUITE A LINE!
I WONDER WHO THE AUTHOR IS.
OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL
Murder at the Bookstore Burning
L. McKenzie
YOU ARE!
BATIUK & DAVIS
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Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today brings joy and progress. Previous losses may turn into profits, and your efforts at work are likely to be recognised and appreciated by your superiors. A change in position or promotion could be on the horizon. You'll effectively manage hidden enemies or opposition. Couples may take significant steps toward marriage with family support.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
With the Moon favouring you today, destiny is on your side. A visit to a religious place with friends or family may bring peace of mind. You might also consider donating to charity or a spiritual cause. Property-related matters could move forward, and work-related overseas travel is likely. Plans for higher education may also emerge. Stay hydrated to avoid potential kidney concerns.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, the Moon is in a challenging position, and you may find yourself caught in unnecessary controversies. Avoid arguments at home and steer clear of risky driving or adventure travel. You might be drawn toward mystical or occult interests. Those in research, science, or geology-related fields could perform exceptionally well today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You'll be active and enthusiastic at work today. Your energy may accelerate ongoing projects, and quick decision-making could benefit your business. A new collaborative idea may take shape though investing in fixed assets with a partner is not advisable at the moment.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
With the Moon's blessings, your work performance will shine today. Promotions or beneficial job transfers may come your way, and you might even consider switching jobs. Your relationship with superiors will improve, and health issues from the past may resolve. Watch your diet to avoid digestive troubles.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today is favourable, thanks to the Moon's support. Things will feel more controlled, and you'll enjoy work with a sharper focus. Your wisdom and practical thinking will help you tackle complex professional decisions. Previous investments may start paying off, boosting your savings. However, steer clear of speculation.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today may bring low energy or dissatisfaction. You could feel disconnected or creatively blocked, possibly due to internal doubts or arrogance. This might affect both your professional and personal life. Try to regain your confidence and avoid letting emotions interfere with productivity.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
A high-energy day lies ahead. Your hard work may finally pay off, boosting your self-confidence. Property-related issues with siblings may be resolved, and a meeting with an influential figure could expand your professional network. Disputes with a partner are likely to settle peacefully.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Blessed by the Moon, you'll feel optimistic and content today. Your polite demeanour will win support from others. Important business decisions may be taken with input from family members. Communication skills could help secure a major deal. Be cautious with throat, ear, or eye-related health issues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
The Moon supports you today, giving you inner strength and a sense of fulfillment. You'll enjoy your work and share warm moments with your spouse, enhancing harmony at home. You may implement new ideas in the family business with precision and success. Job seekers may find promising opportunities. Couples should avoid trivial arguments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel disappointed or emotionally low today. It's important to manage your arrogance and choose words wisely, as harsh speech could lead to misunderstandings or losses. Love birds should avoid unnecessary debates, as they might create tension or cause relationship setbacks.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
A calm and peaceful mindset prevails today. You may plan to invest capital into your business, improving liquidity and financial stability. Earnings are likely to boost your savings. Romantic moments with your spouse will enhance family harmony. Singles might find a suitable match, and couples may consider taking their relationship to the next level.

KIDZONE

Shagun, Bengaluru

Naria Aditi, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$5^x = 325^2 - 300^2 = 625 \times 25$
$= 15625 = 5^6 \Rightarrow x = 6$

RIDDLER 1. Spline: Btc har Com bak Bol trO and Ent = BACKBONE, 2. Private: Phr Eal IRd oms gOp Nep Anl wLd = PERSONAL, 3. Proclaim: Abc raN uon mOu Umk eNs sCh tEc = ANNOUNCE, 4. Canine guard: cWt Ahr orT Cul ghI Dgh hIO trG = WATCHDOG

BULL'S EYE
body, bogey, edgy, GOODBYE, goody, gooey, obey

FAST FIVE

S	H	A	B	U
T	A	L	E	S
O	L	I	V	E
E	M	B	E	R
P	A	I	R	S

STRIKE OUT

H	A	U	L	A	G	E		I	S	L	E	S		
O		N		R		N	O	R	I	A		I		
S	A	K	E	R	E	T		A	N	C	O	N		
T		N		A		A		E		G				
I	R	O	N	S		I	P	S	W	I	C	H		
L		W		A	L	S	O			U				
E	N	N	E	A	D		S	L	A	K	E	D		
E		S	A	L	T			N		E				
E	N	D	G	A	M	E		S	T	O	I	C		
R		R		A		L		W		A				
E	X	P	O	S		D	R	A	P	I	N	G		
C		S	P	A	T	E		I		N		O		
T	R	I	E	D		N	O	N	A	G	O	N		

QUICK

O	X	Y	G	E	N		C	L	E	R	I	C		
R		K		R		L		E		I				
E	U	C	L	I	D		R	U	E	F	U	L		
N		U		F	E	R	A	L		N		O		
B	L	E	A	T		G		L	I	M	B			
	B		N		A	V	A	I	L		M			
G		N		A		A		I		S	A	Y		
N	O	U	S		L		N		I					
	U		H	U	R	A		R		S				
I		U		P		Y	A	H	O	O		Y		
L	O	N	G		E		M		D					
B		E		N	O	M	A	D		M				
B	O	P	E	E	P		J	O	K	E	R	S		
A		R		R		K		E		S		O		
H	E	A	R	T	Y		T	S	E	T	S	E		

MENSA PUZZLE
F. In each group of 3 boxes, calculate the difference in numerical values between the top two letters, and add 1 to give the value of the letter in the lower box.

QUOTE UNCODE
The wise man doesn't give the right answers, he poses the right questions.

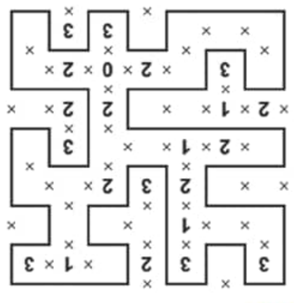
SUDOKU

6	3	5	9	4	7	2	1	8
9	2	1	5	6	8	7	3	4
7	4	8	2	1	3	5	6	9
1	7	2	8	3	6	9	4	5
4	9	6	7	5	2	3	8	1
5	8	3	4	9	1	6	2	7
3	1	7	6	8	9	4	5	2
2	6	4	1	7	5	8	9	3
8	5	9	3	2	4	1	7	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
B, Be, Bed, Bend, Baden, Danube, Bandeau.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 - 7 + 9 + 7 = 13
Medium
3 x 2 + 5 + 6 = 17
Hard
6 + 2 / 2 x 2 = 8

LOOP



KAKURO

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FAN GIRL

Rashmika has admitted in the past that she has a crush on this actor...

Rashmika Mandanna is one of the most sought-after actors, having worked across multiple languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and others. The 'Pushpa' actor had also worked with Tamil superstar Vijay Thalapathy in the 2023 film, 'Varisu'. Here is a throwback to the time when she revealed that her crush on Thalapathy Vijay wasn't just fleeting admiration, but something deeply rooted in childhood.

During the early promotional rounds of 'Bheeshma', as per a TOI report, the star was asked to name her ideal actor as a friend, boyfriend, and husband. Without hesitation, Rashmika said she'd pick Nithiin as a friend, but when it came to a boyfriend, she answered, stating Vijay.

She shared she had "always loved Vijay Thalapathy" since childhood and considered him her dream crush.

She went on to confess she had been waiting to share the screen with him.

Her dream did come true as she starred opposite the 'Theri' star in the 2023 film, 'Varisu'. Interestingly, she had an opportunity to star with him in the film Vijay's 'Master', however, it didn't align with her schedule. **–ETimes**

Complete green flag

Vijay Varma has managed to make a huge mark with his projects, especially in the OTT space. The actor made people think he's the ultimate bad guy. However, in real life, he's a complete green flag, as revealed by an intimacy coordinator in a recent interview.

Aastha Khanna, India's first intimacy coordinator, recently spoke about her experience working with Vijay on multiple sets, including 'Murder Mubarak' and 'Lust Stories 2'. When asked if any actor stood out for going the extra mile to create a safe and comforting space for their co-stars, Aastha told We Are Yuva, "Vijay Varma is one of those people. I have found it so amazing to work with him. And I've worked on three projects with him now. On all three projects, he's just the most giving actor."

She described how Vijay contributes to an atmosphere of ease. "He just holds space, and he will communicate with his co-performer—even if it's cracking jokes to make them laugh, and not in a way that is weird, but in a way that's friendly, to make someone feel a lot more at ease in their space..." said Aastha. **–ETimes**

'We'll get there one day'

Hollywood star Tom Holland has finally broken his silence on joining the James Bond franchise.

The actor has been on a busy slate lately, with back-to-back films including Marvel's 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' and 'Christopher Nolan's 'The Odyssey.'

Amid the growing anticipating for the actor's upcoming releases, speculations are also rife about Holland's possible casting in Amazon MGM Studios' next James Bond film.

Set to be directed by Denis Villeneuve and written by Steven Knight, the film is currently in development and is expected to bring aboard the next 007 after Daniel Craig stepped down from the role in 2021.

During a conversation with Gordon Ramsey, the 'Uncharted' actor was asked about the Bond reports. "Listen, there's speculation at the moment. We'll keep it to a minimum for now. We'll get there one day," he said, as quoted by Variety.

The actor shared he would love the opportunity to play James Bond and added, "Dude, I mean every young British actor, it's the pinnacle of working in our industry. I already consider myself to be the luckiest kid alive you know, I could not have dreamed to have the career that I have." **–ANI**

Getting out of the pigeonhole

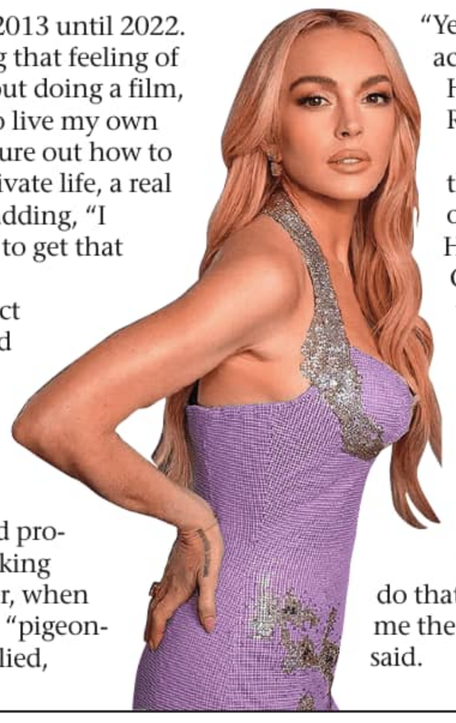
Hollywood star Lindsay Lohan opened up on being pigeonholed by roles she has played in the past as a long-standing actress in the entertainment industry, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Lohan began her career at age 10 on the soap opera 'Another World', with her breakthrough in the 1998 Walt Disney Pictures film 'The Parent Trap'.

She went on to appear in many more projects, including 'Freaky Friday' and 'Mean Girls', and she is next set to reprise her role in the former film with the 2025 follow-up Freakier Friday.

Lohan shared that she "wanted to take a minute" for herself, which kept her away from leading roles from 2013 until 2022.

"I was losing that feeling of excitement about doing a film, and I wanted to live my own life for a bit, figure out how to have a more private life, a real life," she said, adding, "I wanted to wait to get that itch again."



A new project Lohan is excited about is her upcoming Hulu Drama, Count My Lies, in which she will star and produce. While talking about her career, when asked if she felt "pigeonholed," she replied, "Yeah, I do," according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"I was so thrilled to work on A Prairie Home Companion, and yet even today, I have to fight for stuff that is like that, which is frustrating. Because, well, you know me as this -- but you also know I can do that. So let me! Give me the chance," Lohan said. **–ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Over the moon

The cast and crew of Kandeelu are over the moon after the Yashoda Prakash Kottukattira directorial bagged the best Kannada feature film award at 71st National Film Awards.

Kandeelu is Yashoda's second film as a director after Ranga Pravesha. "I am the third woman director to receive this honour after directors Prema Karanth and Kavitha Lankesh. I think I am the only woman director from Kodagu to receive the national award," said Yashoda. The director said Kandeelu is about the struggle of a farmer to protect his agricultural land and to bring the mortal remains of his son who passed away in Saudi Arabia. "Kandeelu portrays the struggles of poor farmers not only in Kodagu but also other parts of the state," the director said.

PVR Swami worked behind the camera. "This is the second movie, for which I worked as cinematographer, to get the national award. Reservation, directed by Nikhil Manjoo, won the national award in the best feature film in regional language in 2017," Swami said.

Freshers' movie

A team of newcomers has come forward to try its luck in Sandalwood with their film Thrikaram that is in the making under the guidance of Dileep Kumar from Ajjampura. The movie has a tagline – Idu Smashana alla (this is not a burial ground).

Thrikaram is being bankrolled by politician-cum-theatre artist G Ganaesh Murthy from Hosadurga under the Sadhguru Cini Productions banner. Murthy is playing the villain in the movie. "It is my maiden movie as a director. Prior to this, I worked as an associate for a few Kannada movies. My passion towards movies made me try my luck as a director. Thrikaram is a work of fiction but the script is very interesting. I do not want to reveal more details about the movie. I thank the producer for spending money without compromising on the quality. We put up a huge set at Hosadurga for the shooting of this movie," said Kumar.

Harsha Vardhan, who worked as associate director for Veeram and Sugarless, is playing the lead in Thrikaram. Nishvita Shetty is paired opposite Harsha Vardhan. The movie also features Nagendra Urs, Bala Rajawadi, and Manju Pavagada.